



NEWS RELEASE

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TOP SkillsUSA NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS NAMED

More than 180 Nebraska students and advisors recently attended the 49th National Leadership and Skills Conference sponsored by SkillsUSA.

Students participated in the SkillsUSA Championships in Kansas City, MO., on June 26 -27. More than 5,900 students from 52 states and territories competed in 98 occupational and leadership skill areas.

SkillsUSA programs help establish industry standards for job skill training in the classroom.

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives working together to ensure that each student excels and that America has a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA is a national student organization that serves trade, industrial, technical and health occupation students in high schools as well as college/technical schools, providing quality education experiences for students in leadership, teamwork, citizenship and character development. The association emphasizes quality at work, high ethical standards, superior work skills, life-long education and pride in the dignity of work. SkillsUSA also promotes understanding of the free enterprise system and involvement in community service activities.

At the national conference, Zach Pechacek, a Metropolitan Community College student, was elected to represent the nation as a College/Technical National Officer. Pechacek is from Bellevue and a past SkillsUSA state officer.

Nebraska's Top Ten Award winners are:

First Place - Gold medalists

- Jonathan Herrman, Alex Schincke, Don Shandera III and Ben Stigge of Metropolitan Community College, Omaha – College/Technical TeamWorks
- Troy Bornemeier of Southeast Community College, Milford – College/Technical Major Appliance and Refrigeration Technology
- Austin Craig, Kelly Faimon and Landon Hunt of Central Community College, Hastings – College/Technical Welding Fabrication
- Kim Spartz and Ali Stark of Adams Central High School, Hastings – High School Community Action Project

Second Place – Silver medalists

- Benjamin Sleight of Millard North High School, Millard– High School Criminal Justice
- Justin Lammers of Southeast Community College, Lincoln - College/Technical Firefighting
- Ian Bridge, Nadezdha Hughes, Taylor Kramer, Karson Kulkowski, Tanner Malmkar, Sydney McGahan and Kylie Wroot of North Platte High School, North Platte – High School Opening and Closing Ceremonies.
- Josh George of Seward High School, Seward – High School Technical Computer Applications

Third Place – Bronze medalists

- Alex Bailey and Tim Martin of Metropolitan Community College, Omaha – College/Technical Mechatronics
- Kyle Friedel of Southeast Community College, Lincoln – College/Technical Motorcycle Service Technology

Fourth Place

- Lydia Boesch, Melissa Jacobs and Brooke Stamper of Blair High School, Blair – High School Crime Scene Investigation
- Jerrod Whittaker of Gretna High School, Gretna – Mobile Electronics Installation

Fifth Place

- Gerald McNerney of Metropolitan Community College, Omaha – College/Technical Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration
- Mike Selvage of Southeast Community College, Lincoln – College/Technical Precision Machining Technology
- Clarissa Weers of Papillion-La Vista South High School – High School Prepared Speech

Sixth Place

- Derrick Marshall of Metropolitan Community College, Omaha – College/Technical Action Skills
- Alex Gonzalez of Millard Horizon High School, Millard – High School Basic Health Care Skills
- Ashley Beall of Central Community College, Hastings – College/Technical Job Interview
- Katryna Booth-Malnack of Millard Horizon High School, Millard – High School Medical Terminology
- Cody Lindamood of Southeast Community College, Milford – College/Technical Welding

Seventh Place

- Kaylee Gill of Wood River High School, Wood River – High School Commercial Baking
- Leroy Martensen and Hunter Wiegand of Columbus High School, Columbus – High School Mechatronics
- Jeremy Chretien and Kreg Gilson of Metropolitan Community College, Omaha – College/Technical Television/Video Production
- Dalton Deidel, Jeffrey Donnally and Levi Thomlison of North Platte High School, North Platte – High School Welding Fabrication

Eighth Place

- Christina Tran of Papillion-La Vista High School – High School Job Interview

Ninth Place

- Jessica Orwen and Sydney vander Heijden of Seward High School, Seward – High School 3-D Visualization and Animation
- Mikel Summers of Central Community College, Hastings – College/Technical Diesel Equipment Technology
- Victoria Korth of Adams Central High School, Hastings – High School Medical Assisting

10th Place

- Cody Smith of Metropolitan Community College, Omaha – College/Technical Electrical Construction Wiring
- Tyrel Hernes of Arlington High School, Arlington – High School Firefighting
- McKenna Kral of Adams Central High School, Hastings – High School Nurse Assisting